IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraphs prior to "Detailed Description" appearing on page 9, line 9 of the specification:

FIG. 7 shows a block diagram of a system employing a pre-burner to supply a reduced oxygen gas stream in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8 shows a block diagram of a system with a natural gas fuel metering system in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

Please add the following new paragraph on page 18, after line 15:

Figure 7 illustrates an embodiment of the invention in which a fuel vaporizer 4 is supplied with a reduced oxygen gas stream from a pre-burner 701. The pre-burner 701 is supplied with air for combustion by the gas stream 9.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 18, continuing onto page 19 as follows:

As discussed above, some embodiments of the invention are configured to produce oxygen-reduced fuel gas streams from liquid fuels that can be fed to existing combustion devices such as gas turbine engines that are configured to combust other fuels such as natural gas without modification to the existing combustion devices. This is accomplished by mixing the fuel gas with an inert, reduced oxygen stream to keep the energy content of the fuel gas equal to that of natural gas on either a mass or volumetric basis depending upon the metering method used by the combustion device. For example, Figure 8 illustrates another embodiment of the invention in which a combustor 5 is fed by a fuel metering system 801 that is configured for natural gas. In most existing combustion devices, fuel gas/combustion air ratio can be controlled such that the mixture may be made more or less lean. An additional benefit of the present invention is that many of the reduced oxygen vaporized higher hydrocarbon fuels can be burned at an equivalence ratio lower (leaner) than that of methane under the equivalent conditions (i.e., same temperature, same combustion air (or other oxygen containing gas) supply, etc.). For example, the minimum equivalence ratio of methane is typically about 0.5 in air, while many higher hydrocarbons fuels can be combusted at an equivalence ratio of approximately 0.45 in air. The use of lower equivalence ratios reduces the emission of pollutants such as NO_x. As discussed above, the operating equivalence ratio of the combustion device may be even lower in embodiments in which the operating range has been widened through the addition of an oxygen rich stream from an air separator to the combustion air stream.